the year when the sun does actually shine fully, and when it does it is not the bright warm sunshine of the south; and besides, being so much lower, its rays come in a slanting direction, and so do not produce the same depth of shade. So that altogether this mode of producing expression is not applicable in England.

How, then, are we to get the shade necessary for effect? Why, in a very simple way, by cutting right through the wall into the interior. The light will then rest on the walls, and the opening will form a piece of deep, fixed shade, dark enough to give expression and effect to the building. And as these holes are necessary to every building in England, we have all the means required for expression at our command.

Windows, doors, chimneys, and ventilators seem to be all the holes necessary; but the ventilators are so very small, chimneys almost always open at the top, and doors are generally shut, and require to be made of a material which allows the light to rest upon it, so that we are forced to depend upon the windows for our light and shade. I hope this is sufficient to show that your writer has not in the least overrated the importance of windows as giving expression to English buildings. It would be well, therefore, if builders of houses, &c., were to study more beauty in windows—if they were to try and make these holes into the interior darkness of the rooms more beautiful in shape, and grouped together in a picturesque, but not fanciful way. They should make the shape, and size, and position of the windows in some way suitable to the room they are to light, and, if possible, by their arrangement to indicate the use of the room. This would give a life and meaning to the outside of houses, instead of that monotonous uniform appearance which they now present. Above all, sham windows should be avoided: they are not in themselves ornamental in any respect, unless the shape happen to be beautiful; but even then they are quite ineffectual, because the thinness of our walls will not allow them to be cut through to a depth sufficient to cause any shade at all. If the builder has left a large piece of wall unpierced by windows, and he cannot ornament it with black or coloured bricks in patterns, or in some other way, it would be better to leave it plain. It is indeed a most important principle that your writer has enunciated, that it is mainly upon their windows that English edifices must depend for their expression. F.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The contract for reclaiming the Norfolk Estuary has been taken by Messrs. Peto and Bett, under direction of the engineers-in-chief, Sir John Rennie and Mr. Stephenson. The objects are, improvement of drainage and navigation, and acquisition of land. The Bedford Level and adjacent lowlands, comprising nearly half a million of acres, will be drained by this work. The proprietors have contributed 60,000*l.*, and the corporation of Lynn a like sum. The ultimate object of the company is to reclaim from the sea a tract of land amounting to about 32,000 acres.——The new bridge at Sutton being brought into use, the old one is in course of removal.——On Wednesday week the newly-erected National Schools at Towcester, comprising a boys', girls', and infants' schools, were opened. They are in the Early English style, corresponding with the church, near which they are situated, and cost about 1,500*l.*, raised by subscription, &c.——The Brighton Breakwater committee have had an interview with the directors of the London and Brighton Railway, relative to the proposed breakwater off Brighton; and the company are said to be entirely favourable to the project. ——A gas company is about to be formed at Ventnor, Isle of Wight.——The inhabitants of Lymington have resolved to take measures to ensure a reduction in the price charged them for gas, namely, 9s., "which is considered exorbitant when compared with other towns, having an equal facility with them in obtaining coals."——Plans for a market at Clifton are about to be decided on.——Final arrangements are being made for bringing the plan for fountains at Bath before the public. The drawing of a fountain intended to be attached to the obelisk in the Grove, and another for the centre of the garden of the Literary Institution, are nearly completed.——St. Peter's Church (or Eldad Chapel), Plymouth, was consecrated on Saturday in the week before last, after being altered in the interior, as suggested by the Rev. Mr. Prynne, the incumbent.——A new Vegetable Market has been opened in the Shambles at Worcester. The walls are of brick: the roof is open, with iron frame principals, surmounted by a lantern. The building is 86 feet by 20 feet, and has two entrances, one from the High-street and the other from the Shambles. There are twenty-two stalls and six store-rooms. The estimated cost of the whole is something under 500*l.* The architects are Messrs. Rowe and Son, of Copenhagen-street, Worcester. A proposition to erect public baths in this city, says the *Worcester Journal*, has been brought before the town-council, and favourably received. It appears that, without any outlay of public money, Mr. Barber, of Cheltenham, has conceived a project to erect baths by subscription near the Water-works. ——The form that seems to be desired by all classes at Worcester for their Peel monument is that of a free-hall with a public library.——A stained-glass window has been executed by Messrs. Pemberton, of New-hall Hill, Birmingham, for Claverley Church. It consists of three compartments; the ground of the centre one a brilliant crimson, and that of the side ones purple. The cost has been defrayed by subscription.——Three new windows have recently been erected in St. Ives Church, in the room of three churchwardens' windows of the last century. That at the east end of the Trenwith Chapel, and those in the north and south aisles, have been restored. All the churchwardens' windows have been removed, and pointed ones substituted, with the exception of the altar window, which is shortly to be restored and filled with stained glass.————The Pedlars'-market, at Liverpool is being pulled down by Mr. S. Holme, and the thoroughfare is to be widened in the erection of shops on the site.——The new post-office at Sheffield is now occupied by the officials. The building is said to be not very ornamental. It has been erected at the sole expense of the Duke of Norfolk.——The price of gas supplied by the Leeds New Gas Company is to be reduced, in December next, from 5s. to 4s. 6d. with the present scale of discount.——A new chimney just completed in Hunslet-road, Leeds, has been blown down during a storm of wind and rain: it was 50 yards high, and the mortar was still in a green state, having only been a week laid.——Negotiations are in progress for a site adjoining the Court-house at Bradford, on which to erect the proposed music-hall there.——"The Harrogate Gas Company and the Improvement Commissioners," says the *Bradford Observer*, "having differed respecting the price of gas, the town is again in darkness. The commissioners have offered 7s. but the company "won't light up" under 8s. Private consumers are charged the extravagant price of 8s. 4d. but unless reduced, many of the most affluent innkeepers, &c. are about to fit up gasometers of their own, and leave monopoly to shift for itself. In Knaresborough the price is 7s. 6d. but the principal consumers are about to strike for a reduction."——The visiting justices of York Castle have obtained plans and estimates for rendering this prison fit for the separate confinement of prisoners before trial, which plans have been approved of by the Government authorities, and are to be submitted to the magistrates of the three ridings. The proposed outlay is not to exceed 3,000*l.*, "thereby," says a Yorkshire paper, "the county will be spared an endless and ruinous outlay in the construction of new prisons, court-houses, &c."——The Hull workhouse, with its site, are about to be sold by tender. "The above," says the announcement, "offers a rare opportunity for the erection of an Exchange and news-room, town-hall, police-court and station, corn market, brokers' and mercantile offices, bank, arcade, or any other public or private buildings in the town of Hull."——The Grimsby Gas Company have ordered a reduction in the price of gas from 7s. 6d. to 6s. 8d. "This," says the *Lincolnshire Times*, "will prove an opportune and wise movement; but it may be submitted whether, in the course of a short period, it would not prove more beneficial to the company to make a further reduction to 5s. There is a very considerably increased consumption, which ought to induce them to act liberally towards the public."——A plan of Sunderland is about to be published from a trigonometrical survey by Mr. Thomas Meik, engineer to the River Wear Commissioners, and Mr. R. Morgan, C.E.——The motion in the Newcastle town-council for the erection of additional baths and washhouses has been carried.——A tenement obstructing the thoroughfare near George the Fourth's bridge at Bristo-port, Edinburgh, is about to be removed.——A new harbour has just been completed at Greenock, and named the Victoria Harbour. The foundation-stone of the Wood Asylum has been laid within the last week in the same town.

RIVAL GAS COMPANIES.

Mr. Tyrrell, the City Gas Company's solicitor, has issued a pamphlet, in form of a letter to the citizens, in answer to an address of the Great Central Gas Consumers' Company, in which he says, "The more immediate object of my present address is to deny the charge of my having threatened to undersell *you*, who are so often spoken of as though you were the Great Central Gas Consumers' Company. • • • I deny that I ever threatened to undersell even this unfortunate (?) company, though I did state, that as an inevitable consequence of the contest, the intruding company *must* be *under*-sold by the old companies, who could not, from the nature of their property, remove it, and would not abandon it to make room for an unscrupulous competitor; and that, therefore, to secure the remnant, they MUST compete, by *reduced* prices, notwithstanding they had already lowered their rate of charge from 6s. to 4s., under the same feeling as the victim of a highway robbery surrenders his purse to save his life." Slanderous inventions will do no essential good to any cause, and ought, on all hands, to be reprobated. We only wish Mr. Tyrrell himself had not diminished the force of his denial by an undercurrent of injurious implications, such as runs throughout his own address, and even appears more than once in the brief quotation from it which we have just given. Competition such as that in question, is undoubtedly wasteful and injurious, even to the public interests, wherever existing companies can *and do supply* the public with a sufficiency of the best article at the lowest possible price *without such competition*. But when it is only *by means of it* that they are tardily compelled to do what otherwise they certainly would *not* have done, who is it that is really to blame, not only for the wasteful competition itself, but even for all the strife and squabbling, heart-burnings, malignity, and slander to which the necessity for such competition with powerful companies will inevitably give rise? Had the old establishments only met the reiterated requests of the citizens *in time* (as we ourselves often warned them they had better do), by making those reductions which they have been compelled to make when *too late*, no such competition, no such waste of money, no such criminations and recriminations would have ever taken place. But, however little to be desired such competition, abstractly speaking, may in reality be, it is going rather too far to compare a rival competitor, as such, even by implication, to an unscrupulous highway robber, however *unfortunate* in his calling.——The Great Central Gas Consumers' Company have had an electric telegraph laid down between their chief office in Moorgate-street and their works at Bow.——A new return, ordered by the Commons on Mr. Hume's motion, has been obtained from the gas companies throughout the country, and a copy of it has been laid before us, to which we shall hereafter refer: meantime we may merely state that by comparison with the last it appears *ex facie* to be a decided improvement, inasmuch as it contains the column of capital *paid up*, the want of which rendered the last, as we pointed out, a perfect nullity, so far as regarded the actual profits of the companies. The multitude of reductions in price since last return is an interesting feature, to which we can only now allude in general terms.

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